

What is Claimed is:

1. An automated terminal for receiving payments, the automated terminal comprising:
 - an acceptor for receiving currency notes; and
 - a control unit for recording information corresponding to an account for
- 5 charges by a service provider and to the value of acceptable currency notes, the terminal being at least intermittently connectable to a remote information handling system holding the account for charges.
2. An automated terminal according to claim 1, wherein payments are received for a mobile telephone service.
3. An automated terminal according to claim 2, further comprising means for enabling the control unit to supply payment related information to a service provider of a mobile telephone network.
4. An automated terminal according to claim 3, wherein the payment related information causes the service provider to perform at least one of reducing the balance due on a credit payment account and increasing the calls available on a prepayment account.
5. A payment system for cash payments to meet a charge on an account of a provider of goods or services, the payment system comprising:
 - an automated terminal including an acceptor for receiving currency notes and
 - an input device for receiving account details, the terminal including means for relating and
- 5 retaining accepted currency value and account details together, the terminal including means for supplying the related value and account details at least intermittently to the provider of goods and services to inform of payment towards account charges.

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6. A payment according to claim 5, further comprising a secure store for accepted currency notes.

7. A self-service terminal for a user to pay a provider of goods or services, the self-service terminal comprising:

means for receiving payment from a user; and

5 means for recording information corresponding to an account for charges by a provider and to the value of acceptable payment from a user; and

means for supplying payment related information at least intermittently to a remote information handling system holding an account for charges to inform of payment towards account charges.

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8. A self-service terminal according to claim 7, wherein payments are received for a mobile telephone service.

9. A self-service terminal according to claim 8, wherein the payment related information causes a mobile telephone service provider to perform at least one of reducing the balance due on a credit payment account and increasing the calls available on a prepayment account.

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10. A self-service terminal for a user to pay a provider of goods or services, the self-service terminal comprising:

a currency note acceptor for receiving payment from a user; and

5 means for recording information corresponding to an account for charges by a provider and to the value of acceptable payment from a user; and

means for supplying payment related information at least intermittently to a remote information handling system holding an account for charges to inform of payment towards account charges.

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11. A self-service terminal according to claim 10, wherein payments are received for a mobile telephone service.

12. A self-service terminal according to claim 11, wherein the payment related information causes a mobile telephone service provider to perform at least one of reducing the balance due on a credit payment account and increasing the calls available on a prepayment account.

13. A self-service terminal for a user to pay a provider of goods or services, the self-service terminal comprising:

a card reader for receiving payment from a user; and

means for recording information corresponding to an account for charges by a provider and to the value of acceptable payment from a user; and

means for supplying payment related information at least intermittently to a remote information handling system holding an account for charges to inform of payment towards account charges.

14. A self-service terminal according to claim 13, wherein payments are received for a mobile telephone service.

15. A self-service terminal according to claim 14, wherein the payment related information causes a mobile telephone service provider to perform at least one of reducing the balance due on a credit payment account and increasing the calls available on a prepayment account.

16. A method of paying charges for a mobile telephone service at an automated terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving currency notes and details of a specific mobile telephone account;
- 5 (b) relating acceptable currency note value with the specific mobile telephone account; and
- (c) at least intermittently supplying the related value and account details to a mobile telephone service provider.

17. A method of operating a self-service terminal to allow a user to pay a provider of goods or services, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving payment from a user; and
- (b) recording information corresponding to an account for charges by a
- 5 provider and to the value of acceptable payment from a user; and
- (c) supplying payment related information at least intermittently to a remote information handling system holding an account for charges.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein step (a) includes the step of:

- (a-1) receiving payment in the form of currency notes from a user.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein step (a) includes the step of:

- (a-1) receiving payment in the form of credit from a user.

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